

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 06955 101738Z

46

ACTION DHA-02

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 ORM-01 AID-05 EA-07 ITFE-00 L-03

OMB-01 AF-06 ARA-06 EUR-12 NEA-10 FDRE-00 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 SS-15 NSC-05 DODE-00 VO-03 SCA-01

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C O N F I D N T I A L GENEVA 6955

FOR D/HA CARLIN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF ICEM UNHCR

SUBJ: UNHCR/ICEM REFUGEE PROGRAMS

REFS: A) STATE 213303; B) STATE 214219; C) STATE 214230

1. USREP ICEM SCBF TOGETHR WITH MISOFF CALLED ON
DEPUTY UNHCR AND DIRCTOR ICEM ON SEPT 9-10 TO DISCUSS
RESETTLEMENT OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES IN THIRD COUNTRIES
AND OTHR MATTERS RELATING TO REFUGEE ACTIVITIES. IN
BOTH CONVERSATIONS THE SUBSTANCE OF STATE 213303
WAS EMPHASIZED.

2. DEPTY UNHCR STATED THERE HAD BEEN SOME INTERNAL
RESISTANCE ON THE PART OF HIS ORGANIZATION IN BECOMING
INVOLVED IN RESETTLEMENT OF INDOCHINESE TO
THIRD COUNTRIES. ATTITUDE IN RECENT WEEKS HAD BEEN
SOMEWHAT MODIFIED BUT THER REMAIN SERIOUS DIFFICULTIES.
UNUCR SEE LITTLE HOPE OF SUCCESS IN PLACING ANY REFUGEES
IN THIRD COUNTRIES WHO ARE NOT SKILLED, AND EFFORTS TO
RESETTLELARGE FAMILIES AND THOSE WITH LIMITED EDU-
CATION OR WORK EXPERIENCE WILL PRODUCE VERY
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PAGE 02 GENEVA 06955 101738Z

LITTL RESULTS. UNHCR DID AGREE TO RECEIVE IN

NW YORK OFFICE DOCUMENTATION UNSKILLED REFUGEES WHO HAVE EXPRESSED A SPECIFIC INTEREST IN A THIRD COUNTRY. UNHCR WOULD THEN MAKE AN EFFORT WITH THIRD COUNTRY TO EFFECT ADMISSION. UNHCR DID NOT OFFER ANY HIGH HOPES THAT SUCH A PROCEDURE WOULD PRODUCE MUCH IN THE WAY OF RESULTS.

3. TURNING TO REFUGEE SITUATION IN THAILAND DEPUTY UNHCR INDICATED THAT THERE REMAINED PROBLEMS OF ORGANIZATION IN GETTING PROGRAM UNDERWAY. THERE WAS A NEED FOR UNHCR TO PROVIDE SUPERVISORY STAFF IN THE VARIOUS LOCATIONS TO INSURE THAT ASSISTANCE ACTUALLY REACHED REFUGEES. THAIS WERE MORE ANXIOUS TO RECEIVE CASH THAN SUPPLIES AND HAD EVEN HINDERED ACCEPTANCE OF US RICE FOR LAO, MAINTAINING THERE WAS AMPLE RICE AVAILABLE FROM THAI SOURCES.

4. ON REPATRIATION DEPUTY UNHCR SAID THAT HIGH COMMISSIONER WOULD DO EVERYTHING HE COULD TO REACH AGREEMENT IN HANOI AND SAIGON FOR THE RETURN OF GUAM CASES. SAIGON AUTHORITIES, HOWEVER, HAD NOT YET AGREED TO RECEIVING HIGH COMMISSIONER. HE MENTIONED UNFORTUNATE HONG KONG SITUATION AND AN INTEREST IN LATIN AMERICA RESETTLEMENT. HE ADMITTED THAT MANY OF THESE EXPRESSIONS WERE SINCERE. DIRECTOR DID, HOWEVER, PROMISE TO RENEW EFFORTS ON LATIN AMERICAN AND UNDERTAKE NEW INITIATIVES IN EUROPE.

6. USRP AND DIRECTOR REVIEWED SITUATION OF REGULAR ICEM PROGRAMS FOR 1975 AND 1976 WITH FORMER STRESSING SERIOUSNESS OF BUDGET SITUATION FOR BOTH YEARS, ESPECIALLY LATIN AMERICAN PROGRAM. DIRECTOR WAS REMINDED THAT FURTHER REDUCTION OF THE U.S. CONTRIBUTION TO THE LATIN AMERICAN PROGRAM MUST BE EXPECTED. DIRECTOR HAD NO SOLUTIONS TO OFFER.

7. ICEM DIRECTOR DID GIVE AN ACCOUNT OF
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PAGE 03 GENEVA 06955 101738Z

EXPRESSION OF SOME GOVERNMENTS TO HAVE CLOSER TIES WITH COMMITTEE. HE ESPECIALLY MENTIONED CANADIAN INTEREST AND SUGGESTED THAT OBSERVER STATUS MIGHT BE REQUESTED IN FALL COUNCIL SESSION AS FIRST STEP TOWARD MEMBERSHIP. DEPUTY HCR INDICATED EARLIER THAT CANADIANS WERE TAKING SOUNDINGS ON RENEWING ICEM MEMBERSHIP. OTHER GOVERNMENTS HAD ALSO SHOWN AN INTEREST IN

CLOSER TIES SUCH AS FRANCE AND TURKEY HAD MEMBER-SHIP UNDER INTERNAL REVIEW. THAILAND HAD SLOS EXPRESSED INTEREST. USREP INFORMED DIRECTOR THAT USG WOULD WELCOME PORTUGAL'S MEMBERSHIP.

8. ON ANGOLA AND TIMOR DIRECTOR STATED MOST OF EARLY REFUGEES FROM TIMOR WISHED TO REMAIN IN AUSTRALIA WITH HOPES OF EVENTUALLY RETURNING TO TIMOR. ANGOLAN SITUATION HAD WORKED AGAINST ACCEPTANCE OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES IN WESTERN EUROPE ESPECIALLY IN FRG WHERE SOME 800 FARMERS AND FAMILIES ARE TO BE RESETTLED. OTHER COUNTRIES EXPECT TO HELP IN ANGOLAN RESETTLEMENT AND THIS INFLUENCES THEIR ATTITUDE ON REFUGEES OUTSIDE EUROPE.

9. DEPUTY UNHCR AND DIRECTOR ICEM WILL BE IN WASHINGTON NXT WEEK FOR FURTHER DISCUSSIONS. ABRAMS

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